

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05
CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
OMB-01 FEA-01 OIC-02 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 /134 W
-----151042Z 046096 /17

P R 151010Z FEB 77

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2248

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: GROUP AGRICULTURE REVIEW OF STANDARDS CODE: DISCUSSION
WITH NORDICS

REF: STATE 019371

1. US MTN DEL (NEWKIRK) MET WITH NORDIC DEL (STALBERG)
AND PRESENTED US POSITION ON UPCOMING GROUP AGRICULTURE
REVIEW OF THE DRAFT STANDARDS CODE ALONG LINES
OF REFTEL. STALBERG, WHO WILL BE SPOKESMAN FOR THE
NORDICS ON THIS ISSUE IN GROUP AGRICULTURE, INDICATED
THAT THEY HAVE NOT YET DEVELOPED A POSITION FOR
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THE REVIEW BUT THAT HE IS RETURNING TO STOCKHOLM
AT THE END OF THIS WEEK TO PARTICIPATE IN A TECHNICAL
AGRICULTURAL REVIEW OF THE DRAFT CODE. SPEAKING PER-
SONALLY, HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WAS ATTRACTED TO THE
PROCEDURAL IDEAS IN THE US SCENARIO. NOTING
THAT THE QUESTION OF APPLICABILITY OF THE DRAFT STAN-
DARDS CODE TO AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS SHOULD BE DEFERRED

TO A LATER STAGE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. STALBERG INFORMED US THAT THE NORDICS WILL HAVE NO POSITION ON THIS ISSUE AT THE UPCOMING MEETING, BUT HOPE TO FORMULATE A POSITION TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE GROUP AGRICULTURE'S TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS. HE HYPOTHESIZED THAT BY USING THE US "PROBLEMS" APPROACH TO REVIEW THE CODE, THE NUMBER OF PROBLEMS RAISED BY OTHER DELEGATIONS COULD BE AN INDICATION OF WHETHER THEY WANT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO BE COVERED BY THE CODE. STALBERG AGREED THAT PROBLEM AREAS UNCOVERED BY GROUP AGRICULTURE SHOULD BE RECORDED AND FORWARDED TO THE STANDARDS SUBGROUP FOR ITS CONSIDERATION. ALTHOUGH STALBERG DID NOT KNOW WHAT SPECIFIC PROBLEMS THE NORDIC DELEGATION MAY RAISE IN THE AGRICULTURAL REVIEW, HE DID RAISE TWO POSSIBLE ISSUES: (A) COMPATIBILITY OF CODEX ALIMENTARIOUS PROCEDURES WHEN A SIGNATORY FAILS TO FOLLOW A CODEX STANDARD WITH THOSE OF THE X DRAFT STANDARDS CODE AND (B) WHETHER "PROCESSES" ARE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CODE'S COVERAGE. HE CONCEDED THAT THE LATTER IS A KEY ISSUE ON WHETHER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE CODE, BUT OBSERVED THAT THE IMPLICATIONS OF INCLUDING "PROCESSES" GO BEYOND AGRICULTURE. STALBERG QUERIED WHETHER A GATT SECRETARIAT PAPER PREPARED FOR THE 3E GROUP (MTN/3E/W/26) WOULD BE RELEVANT TO THE UPCOMING MEETING. STALBERG SUGGESTED THAT THE GROUP TROPICAL PRODUCTS "RUBBER STAMP" GROUP AGRICULTURE'S REVIEW OF THE CODE AND NOT UNDERTAKE A SEPARATE EXERCISE ON ITS OWN.

2. DEFINITIONS: STALBERG SAID THAT THE REVISED BERGLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HOLM PAPER ON DEFINITIONS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE BY FEBRUARY 21. HE AFFIRMED THAT THE NORDIC DELEGATION WAS TAKING A MORE PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO DEFINITIONS AND FAVORS USING HYPOTHESIS B WITH AN EXPLANATION REGARDING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DRAFT CODE'S DEFINITIONS AND THE ISO/ECE DEFINITIONS. STALBERG INFORMED US THAT BERGHOLM IS NO LONGER WORKING FOR THE FINNISH STANDARDS ASSOCIATION AND IS NOW EMPLOYED BY THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT IN THE STANDARDS AREA AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS EXERCISE. CULBERT

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